

REMARKS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection and the allowance of all claims now pending in the above-identified patent application (i.e., Claims 20-35) are respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

At the outset, it should be recognized that the present invention provides a playhouse for children having supporting posts (2) with limit stops (4) or locking elements (23) and being formed as vertical plate-like bodies (7). A roof (1) affixed to the supporting posts (2) with the roof being a self-supporting slab (1) resting in a horizontal direction directly upon the supporting posts (2). In a particularly preferred embodiment, the supporting posts (2) have a length exceeding a distance as measured from the roof (1) to a floor level of the playhouse, and having a recess (3) into which said self-supporting slab (1) is capable of being inserted edgewise. The playhouse of the present invention can be constructed quite easily, in many differing ways, and in little time, with good stability and without the need for using permanent fixation means, such as screws or nails.

As will be explained in greater detail hereinafter, nowhere in the prior art is such a novel, and easy to construct, playhouse either disclosed or suggested.

By the present amendments, Applicant has amended independent Claim 20, in order to further specify the connection of the various elements of the playhouse of the instant invention and, in particular, to recite that the components of the claimed playhouse may be stably connected without the use of, for example, screws, i.e., permanent fixation means. Subject matter support for this limitation is submitted to exist in Applicant's originally-filed Specification, at Page 15, lines 13-15 (" . . . so that even before the use of screws (27) good stability of connection is guaranteed.") The terminology "permanent fixation means" is intended to include screw connections (new Claim 32), as well as connections which are inherently equivalent to screws, such as nails.

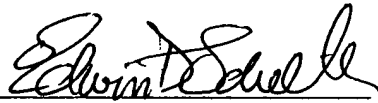
On June 23, 2003, the PTO's Board of Patent Appeals & Interferences affirmed the Examiner's final rejection, dated December 20, 2001, finding that O'Brian et al., U.S. Patent No. 4,365,799, anticipated the subject matter of independent Claim 20, as presented prior to the instant claim amendments. Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.197, which incorporates the two-month time limit of 37 C.F.R. §1.304(a)(1) for further prosecution following a decision affirming an Examiner's rejection of claims, Applicant has now substantially amended Claim 20, and entered new dependent Claims 32-35, to recite various features of his invention that are submitted to be neither disclosed nor suggested by O'Brian et al., particularly the ability to create a playhouse that is both stable and may be

constructed without, for example, screw connections. The "folding slide and platform structure" of O'Brian et al., which the Board found could conceivably be used as a play-house by imaginative children, is respectfully submitted to neither disclose the concept, construction nor combination of structural elements now being recited in independent Claim 20 and all remaining claims via dependency.

Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to examine Applicant's newly-amended claims (i.e., Claims 20-35) and to allow such claims at an early date.

Respectfully submitted,

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The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the Deposit Account of Appellant's Attorney, Account No. 19-0450, for any additional fees which may be due in connection with the prosecution of the present application, but which have not otherwise been provided for.